

Lost Guilderland

Although destroyed by fire in the 1980s, this stylish lodge was one of the town's most intriguing historic places. Local residents may remember it as Chapel House, the collegiate interfaith center located on a wooded hill overlooking the SUNY Albany athletic center. Originally built in 1909 on a secluded site next to the old Albany Country Club, it was designed by Albany architect Marcus T. Reynolds for William Barnes, Jr. as a suburban retreat. Barnes was a prominent local businessman and politician. This large yet informal house offered his family and friends a relaxed setting that was removed yet convenient to their busy lives and work in Albany. Barnes is best known as the powerful chairman of the Albany County Republican Party during the height of its early twentieth-century influence. He was also editor of two important local daily newspapers, the *Morning Express* and the *Evening Journal*, which his grandfather Thurlow Weed, another well-known political figure, had established in



William J. Barnes Bungalow, South Elevation—Marcus Reynolds drawing from *Style follows Function: Architecture of Marcus T. Reynolds* by Eugene J. Johnson.

1841. The *Evening Journal* became one of Barnes's most effective political tools.

Up until its demise, this Guilderland landmark offered a glimpse into the life and times of Barnes and his colleagues, and illustrated the architect's skill at blending fine craftsmanship with

relaxed family living. It is interesting to note that Reynolds went on to design the distinguished 1912-1918 Delaware and Hudson and Albany Evening Journal Buildings (now the headquarters for SUNY administration) at the bottom of State Street in downtown Albany.